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C.I.A. 4 Chile

Nixon Ordered CIA Actions in Chile, Ex-Agent Says

NEW YORK (AP)—A former CIA official says former President Richard M. Nixon ordered agency officials to take any action necessary, including a military coup, to prevent the election of Salvador Allende, a Marxist, as president of Chile in 1970.

The attempt failed, but not for lack of trying, said David Atlee Phillips, a former CIA chief for the Western Hemisphere.

Phillips, who has resigned from the CIA and runs a group dedicated to improving the public image of past and present agents, said, however, that the CIA had nothing to do with the coup that overthrew Allende in 1973.

Of the 1970 scheme, Phillips says in a new book, "The Night Watch," that it was so top-secret that Nixon told only Henry A. Kissinger, who then

headed the National Security Council, and then Brig. Gen. Alexander M. Haig.

Richard M. Helms, then director of covert intelligence, was put in charge of a small group of agents, including Phillips, to run the project, code-named Track II.

Phillips' book, which he said had official clearance, appeared a few days after an American delegate, Brady Tyson, apologized to the U.N. Human Right Commission in Geneva for American actions in Chile.

Phillips said he was the agency's chief of station in Rio de Janeiro in 1970 when he was called back to Washington to take part in Track II.

He said Helms had been called to the White House on Sept. 15 for a secret meeting with Nixon and was instructed to do everything necessary

to keep Allende out of office.

The author quotes a memo Helms brought back to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. The memo read:

"One in 10 chances, perhaps, but I save Chile."

"Worth spending."

"Not concerned risks involved."

"\$10,000,000 available, more if necessary."

"Full-time job—best men we have."

"Game plan."

"Make the Chilean economy steam."

Phillips says he told a colleague he

did not understand why the agency

was getting involved in Chile, "espe-

cially when we believe it won't

work."

The answer, he said, was, "You

really don't need to understand as

long as you understand why the

President ordered."